GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:466
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
KILLING OF PEOPLE BY LEOPARDS AND VICE VERSA .
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware the Leopard kill many people every year in Uttranchal (Garhwal - Kumaon) and Himachal Pradesh (Shivalik) and almost equal number of Leopards are eliminated as man eaters;

(b) if so, the number of casualities on both sides during the years 2000 and 2001;

(c) the reasons that are forcing Leopards to move into human habitat; and

(d) the steps being taken to restrict both Leopard and human beings in their respective territories and protect them both?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Instances of depredation by leopards and the leopards being killed to prevent such depredation are reported from time to time. The details of human deaths caused by leopards and number of leopards killed to safeguard the human killings are at Annexure.

(c) The reasons that force leopards to enter the human habitations are:

1. Decline in the extent of wildlife habitats.

2. Decline in the prey base of leopards.

(d) The steps taken to prevent human leopard conflicts include:

1. Improvement of habitat and prey base in the Protected Areas and the buffer zones through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including Project Tiger, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development in and around Protected Areas.

2. Funds are also provided to the State Governments for purchase of communication equipments and vehicles for the field staff to reduce response time in cases of attack on human beings by wild animals.

3. Wildlife Institute of India organises courses on tranquilisation and translocation of wild animals for the field managers.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) &(b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 466 4.3.2002 REGARDING KILLING OF PEOPLE BY LEOPARDS AND VICE-VERSA

S.No Name of the State Period Human casualities Man eater leopards

Killed Injured Declared Killed

1 Uttaranchal Nov-Dec. 2000 5 8 Nil Nil

2. Uttaranchal 2001 27 43 12 2 (killed) 1 (Caged)

3. +Himachal Pradesh 2000 Nil Nil Nil Nil

4. +Himachal Pradesh 2001 3 Nil Nil Nil

+ During the last two years, 12 leopards have been trapped and killed in retaliatory action by the people in the vicinity of villages.